

Notice about Case Mix Disclosure Regulation (114.5 CMR 2.00)

Following the public comment period on its proposed amendments to Regulation 114.5 CMR 2.00: Disclosure of Hospital Case Mix and Charge Data, the Division of Health Care Finance and Policy will not adopt the proposed amendments. The Division proposed amendments to the regulation on January 6, 2006. The regulation governs the criteria and procedures by which the Division may permit access to confidential case mix and charge data submitted by acute hospitals. These data contain information about hospital admissions and discharges, emergency department visits, and outpatient observation stays, and also includes the Board of Medicine's license number for attending and operating physicians. The Division currently encrypts the physician license numbers prior to releasing the data to qualified applicants. The proposal would have made the unencrypted physician license number available to researchers. The Division believes that while the encrypted license number is useful for general trend research, it does not provide sufficient detail to support greater transparency in health care data.

The Division acknowledges the complexity of the issues raised in the written comments, and will schedule a consultative session for further discussion of this important initiative. We will continue to work with interested parties to ensure timely access to health care data that will inform decision making and promote the efficient delivery of quality health care.

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